ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Speak English Around Town Lesson 2 Idioms, Proverbs, Expressions MCQ Test

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1	**A**	2	**A**	3	**B**	4	**A**	5	**B**	6	**B**	7	**A**	8	**B**	9	**B**	10	**A**
11	**D**	12	**C**	13	**A**	14	**B**	15	**D**	16	**C**	17	**B**	18	**A**	19	**D**	20	**C**

Explanations

1. If _____ in Chicago, I suggest you visit the Willis Tower.
✓ **A) you're ever**
In a first conditional, the **if**-clause uses the present simple even when it talks about the future: **If you're ever in Chicago…**. Not **you'll ever be**, because we don't normally use **will** after **if** for a simple condition.

2. If Patrick _____ to Cornell, he'll definitely get accepted.
✓ **A) applies**
First conditional: use the present simple in the **if**-clause and **will** in the main clause: **If Patrick applies…, he'll get accepted.** Not **will apply**, because a simple condition after **if** doesn't take **will**.

3. I don't know if my friend Marie _____ to the wedding.
✓ **B) will come**
Here **if** means **whether**. It starts a question about the future, not a condition, so **will** is correct: **I don't know if she will come.** Not **comes**, because this is not a conditional sentence.

4. If the groundhog _____ his shadow next month, there will be six more weeks of winter.
✓ **A) sees**
First conditional: use the present simple after **if**, even with a future time like **next month**: **If the groundhog sees his shadow…, there will be…**. Not **will see**, because the **if**-clause is a simple condition.

5. If _____ you happy, I'll get you that new video game for Christmas.
✓ **B) it'll make**
We can use **will** after **if** when the **if**-clause is a result of the main clause: getting the game will make you happy. So **If it'll make you happy, I'll get you…** is correct. Not **it made**, because a past tense doesn't match **I'll get** in this sentence.

6. If _____ tomorrow, we'll have to postpone the picnic.
✓ **B) it's raining**
After **if**, use a present form for a future condition. Here the present continuous is used: **If it's raining tomorrow, we'll…**. Not **it will be raining**, because **will** is not used in a normal **if**-condition.

7. If _____ your cell phones, the concert can begin.
✓ **A) you'll turn off**
If you'll… is a polite way to make a request: **If you'll turn off your cell phones, the concert can begin** means "please turn off your phones." Not **you turned off**, because the past tense doesn't match **can begin**.

8. If Joe _____ next Tuesday, who will show him around the city?
✓ **B) comes**
First conditional: use the present simple after **if**, even with **next Tuesday**: **If Joe comes…, who will show him around?** Not **will come**, because a simple condition doesn't take **will**.

9. I'm not sure if I _____ in the office tomorrow.
✓ **B) will be**
After **I'm not sure if** (= whether), use **will** to talk about the future: **I'm not sure if I will be in the office tomorrow.** Not **am**, because this is not a condition. It is a question about the future.

10. If _____ raining later, let's go play golf.
✓ **A) it's not**
In an **if**-clause about the future, use a present form: **If it's not raining later, let's go…**. Not **it will not be**, because **will** is not used in a normal **if**-condition.

11. This restaurant is lousy. Let's _____ it from now on.
✓ **D) steer clear of**
Steer clear of means to stay away from or avoid something: **Let's steer clear of that restaurant.** The restaurant is **lousy** (very bad), so we want to avoid it.

12. You broke your leg in a skiing accident? _____!
✓ **C) What a bummer**
What a bummer! is an informal way to say "How disappointing!" or "That's bad luck!" It is a natural reply to bad news like a broken leg.

13. Your toilet is broken. I'm not sure I can fix it, but I'll _____.
✓ **A) take a crack at it**
Take a crack at it means to try to do something, often for the first time or without being sure you'll succeed. The clue is **I'm not sure I can fix it, but I'll…**.

14. Installing this software is tricky, so be sure to follow the directions _____.
✓ **B) to the letter**
To the letter means exactly, paying attention to every detail: **follow the directions to the letter**. The installation is **tricky**, so you must follow each step carefully.

15. I barely have time to read a magazine article, _____ an entire book!
✓ **D) let alone**
Let alone means "and certainly not." It introduces something even less likely than the first thing: **I barely have time to read an article, let alone a whole book.**

16. When it comes to making movies that kids love, Disney _____.
✓ **C) has the magic touch**
Have the magic touch means to be very good at something and always succeed at it: **Disney has the magic touch.** Not **works out**, because that means "ends well" and doesn't describe a person's or company's skill.

17. If you don't have your receipt, we can't give you your money back, but we can _____.
✓ **B) issue you a credit**
Issue you a credit means the store gives you credit (store money) to spend there instead of cash. Stores often do this when a customer returns something without a receipt.

18. I just bought a used car. I hope it _____.
✓ **A) works out**
Work out means to end well or be successful: **I hope it works out.** A used car can have problems, so the speaker hopes it will be OK.

19. If you'd like to return those pants and get these pants instead, it would be an _____.
✓ **D) even exchange**
An **even exchange** means you swap one item for another of the same price, so no money is paid or returned. Here you return one pair of pants and take another.

20. If you have trouble setting up your new computer, _____ call me.
✓ **C) don't hesitate to**
Don't hesitate to… is a friendly way to say "feel free to…": **don't hesitate to call me**. It is followed by a verb in the base form (**call**).

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